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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/838,544	04/20/2001	Paul Gilson	08157.0011	9269
22852	7590	04/19/2004		EXAMINER
				NERBUN, PETER P
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			3765	

DATE MAILED: 04/19/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No.	Applicant(s)
	09/838,544	GILSON ET AL.
	Examiner Peter P Nerbun	Art Unit 3765

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 2 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
 - If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
 - Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133).
- Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) Responsive to communication(s) filed on 19 November 2003.
- 2a) This action is FINAL. 2b) This action is non-final.
- 3) Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) Claim(s) 2-24,27-43 and 57-79 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) Claim(s) 2-24,27-43 and 57-79 is/are allowed.
- 6) Claim(s) _____ is/are rejected.
- 7) Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) The drawing(s) filed on 20 April 2001 is/are: a) accepted or b) objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) All b) Some * c) None of:
 1. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 2. Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 3. Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date 14.
- 4) Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) Other: See Continuation Sheet.

Continuation of Attachment(s) 6). Other: Examiner's Statement of Reasons for Allowance.

A request for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, including the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e), was filed in this application after allowance or after an Office action under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 25 USPQ 74, 453 O.G. 213 (Comm'r Pat. 1935). Since this application is eligible for continued examination under 37 CFR 1.114, and the fee set forth in 37 CFR 1.17(e) has been timely paid, prosecution in this application has been reopened pursuant to 37 CFR 1.114. Applicant's submission filed on November 19, 2003 has been entered.

This application is in condition for allowance except for the following formal matters:

The disclosure contains several obvious errors. For example, note page 28, line 20 of the specification ("handl" should be changed to --handle--); page 31, line 28 ("minimise" should be changed to --minimize--); page 48, line 7 ("centring" should be changed to --centering--). The specification should be reviewed to correct these and any other such errors. In claim 68, line 23, "pre deployment" should be changed to --pre-deployment-- to be consistent with claim 68, line 8.

The patents to Addis and Mazzocchi et al are cited to disclose methods of loading intravascular catheter filters into a catheter including the steps of delivering a collapsible filter into a catheter defining a reception space.

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

Claim 36 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 36 specifically requires the steps of providing a catheter defining a reception space, the catheter comprising an internal proximal stop, moving a collapsed embolic protection filter

towards the reception space to engage said proximal stop, and disassociating the loaded catheter from a loading device.

Claim 57 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 57 specifically requires a vascular filter assembly and assembly for loading the vascular filter assembly, said vascular filter assembly having an expanded state and a pre-deployment collapsed state, an abutment coupled to a filter element, a delivery catheter including a reception space, an urging device delivering the filter assembly into the reception space of the delivery catheter, the urging device being engageable with the abutment in the expanded state of the filter assembly to assist in collapsing the filter assembly from the expanded state to the collapsed pre-deployment state.

Claim 68 and its dependent claims are allowed because claim 68 specifically requires the steps of providing a vascular filter assembly having an expanded state and a pre-deployment collapsed state, the filter assembly comprising a filter element comprising a filter membrane and a filter support frame for the membrane, and an abutment coupled to the filter element, providing a delivery catheter including a reception space, engaging an urging device with the abutment in the expanded state of the filter assembly, and using the urging device to move the filter assembly towards the pre-deployment collapsed state and deliver the filter assembly into the reception space in the delivery catheter.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably

accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

Prosecution on the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

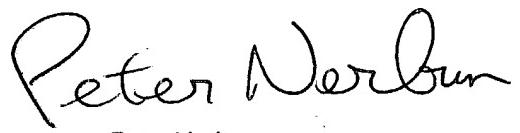
A shortened statutory period for reply to this action is set to expire **TWO MONTHS** from the mailing date of this letter.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Peter P Nerbun whose telephone number is 703-308-0955. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F (1st Week) M-Th (2d Week).

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, John J Calvert can be reached on 703-305-1025. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Peter Nerbun
April 12, 2004


Peter Nerbun
Primary Examiner